

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

RB Royal Industries, Inc.

Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Rb Royal Reduces Lead Time Using Lean Techniques

Client Profile:

RB Royal is a Fond du Lac, Wisconsin-based manufacturer of custom hose and tube assemblies and precision machined products. The company employs 130 people.

Situation:

RB Royal wanted to improve its throughput time and make process improvements in non-manufacturing areas of the business. The company contacted the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

WMEP began working with RB Royal to develop a process improvement team. The team used value stream mapping, a lean technique, to identify inefficiencies in the quoting and new product launch areas of the business. The team used the same technique to eliminate non-value-added activities and improve the new product launch process. WMEP also taught the RB Royal team to use value-added flow analysis (another lean technique) to cut wastes in the front office, reducing the time it takes to complete the quoting process by 90 percent.

Results:

Reduced quoting process from 42 days to 3 days.

Improved launch process by more than 70 percent.

Reduced overall time from order intake through shop order issuance from approximately 109 days to 32 days.

Testimonial:

"The implication of [this project with Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership] for our company is that we have a much higher degree of success in competing on a world basis."

John Valek, Executive Vice President